

Speldhurst News



March 2022

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Contents

	Page(s)
◆ Welcome	2
◆ Diary at a Glance	3
◆ News & Announcements	4-9,14,21-22
◆ Speldhurst Village Hall	10-11
◆ Allotment News	12-13
◆ Nature Watch	15
◆ Parish Council	16-17
◆ Speldhurst School News	18-19
◆ Cllr Matthew Sankey	20
◆ Letter from St. Mary's	23
◆ Church Diary	24-25
◆ Clubs & Organisations	26-27
◆ Local Info	27
◆ Advertising	28-36



welcome: March

Dear Readers,

There are signs of Spring around the village and in our gardens and the days are getting longer - at last! We also have a magazine filled with lots happening in March and beyond.

We are delighted to welcome a new contributor to our magazine namely our recently elected Councillor Matthew Sankey. Matthew wants to keep us posted with news from the Town Hall (see p. 20). Also for those cricket enthusiasts we have a thriving junior section (p.6-7) thank you Francis for providing us with this information. Cricket seems a long way off as I write this with storm Dudley making its appearance! A massive thank you too to everyone who has supported the Just Giving campaign to look after our recreation ground - 80% of the 5k target has been reached - do support this if you haven't already done so (p.9).

Please do keep us posted on any news from the village we would love to include it in the magazine.

With best wishes,

**Sara Turner for the Editorial Team, Speldhurst News
(Abi Dawson, Maria Turner and Sara Turner)**

Please remember that copy for the **April edition** should be sent **before 10th March** to: speldhurst.news@gmail.com. Word, Publisher or pdf files preferred. Thank you.

The SPELDHURST NEWS endeavours to include articles in addition to village, church and chapel news. These are taken in good faith and without prejudice, therefore the committee will not be held responsible for the accuracy of the content, nor will it be held responsible for any work or treatment received from the advertisers. Readers should satisfy themselves of advertisers' abilities before accepting a job quotation or undertaking a course of treatment. All articles & inclusions should be sent as a word document attachment. The editors reserve the right to amend submissions where they feel it is appropriate.

diary at a glance

March

Mon pm	Library in the Village Hall	p.19
Mondays	Bumps & Babes	p.4
Sat 5th	Penshurst Farmers Market	p.14
Mon 7th	Full Council Meeting: LGVH	p.17
Weds 9th	Praise & Play	p.4
Thurs 10th	Committee Meeting Flower, Vegetable & Craft Show	p.7
Tue 15th	SAM event	p.4
Weds 23rd	Praise & Play	p.4
Mon 28th	Annual Parish Meeting: LGVH	p.16

Dates for your diary

Sat 18th June	Speldhurst Village Fete	p.5
Sat 10th Sept	Speldhurst Flower, Vegetable & Craft Show	p.13

News & Announcements

What's on in Speldhurst for the Under 5's in March

Spring is well underway now with snowdrops, daffodils and crocuses blooming everywhere. Our groups are blooming too as we emerge from covid restrictions.

Bumps and Babes, the group for new Mums, meets fortnightly on Mondays in each other's homes again now. So do get in touch with Jenny if you have an under 2.

Praise and Play, the Toddler Group run by St Mary's at the church, meets fortnightly on a Wednesday. In March we meet on 9th & 23rd. We are there from 9-10.30 but arrive when you can. There is no fixed start time for you.

Meanwhile if you are new to the village and have pre-school children, or know someone in that position, do get in touch with Jenny on 01892 541200 or 07891 318123 or at jenny50fitz@gmail.com

Speldhurst Association of Men (SAM)

We have a busy schedule of events planned but please check before as things can change very quickly!

15th March **Talk on stamps and coins by Graham Barker**

Contact: Brian Tasker 01892 862301

Save the date...

SPELDHURST VILLAGE FETE IS BACK!

Join us for BBQ, music, bar, stalls,
entertainment, activities and more...



SATURDAY 18TH JUNE

Noon - til Late on the Rec



SPELDHURST CRICKET CLUB JUNIOR CRICKET SECTION

The Village is fortunate to have a thriving Junior Cricket section which has been growing strongly over the last five years and now has over 110 registered young cricketers between the ages of 4 and 15.

Why is Junior Cricket so popular in Speldhurst even after two summers affected by covid restrictions?

- We regard the hands-on involvement of parents as being vital in helping to create an effective coaching process. All the parents who chose to be closely involved in coaching are given full briefing by the Senior Coaches and we arrange ECB run courses for those parents who are interested. Over 30 parents helped with coaching in the summer of 2021.
- We ensure all youngsters are kept busy throughout the coaching sessions, they can't learn much standing around uninvolved. Having so many parents involved in coaching means we can deliver a ratio of coach/parent to young cricketer of 1:4 all the way up to and including Under 11 level.
- We never criticise a youngster for trying their hardest but not being immediately successful. Any form of education is reliant on the resilience of the student in continuing to give their best even when frequent set-backs occur. Learning from the set-backs is a key part of the learning process. You may have heard the expression - "Ever tried? Ever failed? Try again. Fail better."
- We regard playing the game within the Spirit of Cricket as far more important than the result in any competitive environment. We constantly reinforce this approach in all coaching and match situations.

BACKGROUND ON COACHING SESSIONS FOR ALL AGES

Summer Coaching

There are five separate summer season coaching groups, organised, mainly, by age:

- All Stars has youngsters up to Year 2 being coached on Saturday mornings from 8.30 for an hour.
- Senior Soft Ball is predominantly Year 3 and involves intensive involvement of parents and young cricketers as they work together to build on the skills learnt in All Stars. This group also meets on Saturday mornings in two sessions, one from 8.30 and the other from 10.00.
- The Transition Group, mainly Year 4, involves a change of focus towards game-based activities in preparation for the move to playing competitive League cricket in the Under 11s. This group meets at 8.30 on Saturdays.
- The basis of the coaching programme for Under 11s is a mixture of one-to-one coaching and game-based activities. This group meets from 10.00 to 11.30 on Saturdays and plays mid-week League matches
- The Under 13s meet on a Friday evening from 18.00 and play League matches on Sunday mornings.

The season starts in mid-April and carries on until the end of August. On a Sunday in the middle of the season we have a Family Day and on the first Sunday of September there is an end-of-season day of activities.

WINTER COACHING

In the Winter, starting in early January and ending at the end of March, the last four groups have coaching in the Sports Hall at Judd School on Sunday late afternoon/early evening.

Francis Booth

Head of Junior Cricket

fdbyear4@outlook.com 07738474144



**Tristan Gurney and Friends Present
'A Postcard from Italy'
Saturday 19 March 2022, 7.30pm
Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul
Church Lane, Tonbridge, TN9 1DA**

Tristan Gurney (director/violin) presents a wonderful programme of Italian masterpieces. Opening with the witty and light hearted Wolf *Italian Serenade* for string quartet, this is a programme brimming with the flavour of Italy. Boccherini's light, spirited and ornate *String Sextet* follows before concluding with one of the chamber music greats, Tchaikovsky's *String Sextet in D minor, Op.70, 'Souvenir de Florence'*. Following a 3 month stay in Florence composing his opera *The Queen of Spades*, Tchaikovsky returned home and wrote this masterpiece in a matter of weeks. A work of great power, intense passion and beauty, it is perhaps not surprising that the composer admitted "*It is terrible how thrilled I am with my own work*". It has been thrilling audiences ever since!

Tristan Gurney enjoys a wide-ranging career as a director, soloist, chamber and orchestral violinist. He established himself on the British chamber music scene as leader of the Edinburgh Quartet (2007-2016). During this time, Tristan collaborated with many well-known artists such as harpist Isabelle Moretti and flautist Juliette Bausor. He also worked closely with composers such as Sir James MacMillan and Sir Peter Maxwell Davies. The Edinburgh Quartet released several CDs with Tristan, all to great acclaim. Their CD of Sir James MacMillan String Quartets was awarded a 'Critics Choice' and included in the list of best recordings of 2014 in Gramophone Magazine.

Tristan currently holds the position of Principal Second of Royal Northern Sinfonia where, alongside the orchestral playing, he enjoys a role as director, soloist and chamber player. Tristan also has a flourishing freelance career, regularly collaborating with chamber music colleagues and guesting as a principal player with orchestras such as the Royal Philharmonic and the Academy of St Martins in the Fields.

Tristan studied the violin at the Royal Northern College of Music and then at the Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto. He plays on a Ferdinand Gagliano Violin.

For more information, and to buy tickets, please go to www.tmc.org.uk or call 01732 364204. Tickets cost £20 or £5 for students and under-18s. Those aged under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Speldhurst Recreation Ground – Just Giving Campaign Update

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Just Giving campaign. We have reached 80% of the £5k target, thanks to all the contributions but particularly thanks to one very generous donation. We would like to make the contributions an annual event; it would make so much difference to keeping the rec in great shape for everyone. The current campaign will keep running till May so please do contribute if you can - all the small donations really add up!

Our A.G.M is coming up soon and we will put the date in the next magazine as we would love to see as many of you there as possible.

The Recreation Ground Committee





SPELDHRST VILLAGE HALL

We are back for 2022

Our regular weekly sessions are well attended and we have a selection of activities to offer:

Monday

Chair Yoga with Anna
Library
Ballet with Footsteps
Yoga with Sam Davies

Tuesday

Yoga with Angela Goff
Rainbows
Brownies
Pilates with Family Inspired
Training

Wednesday

Speldhurst Drama Club
Cubs
Yoga with Sam Davies

Thursday

Mummy and Me Ballet with
Footsteps
Speldhurst Drama Club
Beavers
Guides

Friday

Quirky Quilters
Scouts

If you want any information on booking into one of these classes then do get in touch with Sam who will send you details.

Remember to book your events in soon to avoid disappointment as the diary is filling up quickly. We would love to have your ideas on some other classes to offer; Zumba, Boxercise, knitting, all ideas welcome!

As always, contact Sam Van Niekerk on 07894 903979 or speldhurstvillagehall@gmail.com if you need to get in touch.



We are hiring!

CARETAKER REQUIRED

Our wonderful Caretaker is retiring and we are looking for someone to join us at our thriving village hall.

The position involves minor maintenance work. Heavier/major work will be carried out by contractors and you will not be asked to carry out heavy lifting/ complicated electrical work etc.

The hall needs to be kept in a good and safe condition both inside and outside and this will be the responsibility of the Caretaker in conjunction with our Maintenance Officer.

This position would suit someone who is retired and likes DIY. It is a paid position and hours can be agreed.

If you are interested in helping your local community in this way, please contact Sam, Village Hall Administrator for a job specification.

Sam Van Niekerk on 07894 903979 or speldhurstvillagehall@gmail.com



~ Allotment News ~



Worms to the rescue

Did you read the article about a Nottingham-based initiative called 'The Urban Worm Community Interest Company' promoting an urban worm farming movement in the UK? The enterprise was granted 50,000 GBP from the national lottery to send out 1,000 packs of composting worms to anyone who has a DIY worm farm.

Why worm farming?

According to the 'Worm Farm Guru', worm composting is great for the environment. It reduces food waste and creates a perfect organic fertilizer for plants and soil. Reducing waste is surely an interesting matter to us all and we have considered the positive outcomes of composting before.

However, in comparison to other methods of composting, worm farms are quite convenient whilst at the same time being low maintenance and very efficient at processing organic matter.

Meanwhile, discarding food waste is bad for the environment – irrespective of the cost and pollution of transporting the food waste. Methane and nitrous oxide (which are 13 and 310 times stronger than carbon dioxide) are produced when food breaks down and are the worst greenhouse gases created in landfill.

So worms can reduce the amount of greenhouse gas generated whilst they transform organic matter into worm castings - and they do this really quickly. Composting worms can digest about half of their body weight on average of organic matter per day.

According to 'The Urban Worm' the reality of climate changes, natural resource depletion and mass urbanization present unprecedented threats to global food security and the survival of humanity. Worm farming provides solutions to help us meet and address these challenges, as individuals, communities, institutions and businesses.

Also it is possible to have a worm farm in any environment – even small scale indoor, low tech and low cost systems. Yet despite worm poop, rotting food and bacterial decay, a well-maintained worm farm should have an earthy smell – not a bad one.

I'm convinced. I've already filled my compost bin that I bought last year. I'm now going to convert a spare wheelie bin and join the vermiculture (great word) community. Anyone want to join in? Let's do that and compare notes.

Interesting facts about worms:

- worms will become paralysed if exposed to light for too long
- worms breath through their skin and have no lungs
- the average lifespan of a worm is about 2 years

Finally:

1. If you are interested in acquiring an allotment, please contact Mark Oddy on 01892 862746.
2. If there is any topic you would like to address relating to matters gardening or horticultural, please send an email to kytehouse@stepex.co.uk
3. If you would like to submit something for this article, please also email it to kytehouse@stepex.co.uk.

Robert Kyte

The Speldhurst Flower, Vegetable & Craft Show is back on!

The show will be held on Saturday 10th September from 2.30pm.

The next committee meeting is on Thursday 10th March, 8.15pm in the village hall. If you are interested in joining the committee or would like to know a little more about the show, please do pop along. New ideas & volunteers always welcome.

Check out our Facebook page Speldhurst Flower, Vegetable & Craft Show or our website page <http://speldhurst.org/contacts/34>





FARMERS' MARKET AT PENS Hurst

Don't miss Penshurst Farmers Market this March for the very best local seasonal food and drink around



**Saturday,
March
5th, 2022**

**9.30 am
to
12.00 pm**

**Penshurst
Place Visitor
Car Park**



Spring gets into gear this month and with the increasing light levels and longer days, it's the perfect time to get out and about. Come along to Penshurst and discover the wonderful seasonal produce on offer from our talented producers from across Kent, Surrey and Sussex. With up to 30 regular stalls there's plenty to tempt you to buy.

Don't miss out on two very special early spring treats this month. Rye Bay scallops are now at their finest, whilst hogget, the meat from last year's mature lambs, will be available on the Hoopers Farm stall. Their rare-breed flock grazes on ancient pasture and the resulting meat is tender, full flavoured and wonderful to cook with.

Don't forget to bring your kitchen knives and garden tools to be sharpened by our Knife Ninja ready for the new season in the garden; buy new season's flowering spring bulbs and shrubs from Low Wood Nursery to get into the ground now.

Parking is plentiful, free and close by. Families and dogs are welcome.

Find us on Facebook

Find us on Twitter and Instagram

www.kfma.org.uk/penshurst

Nature Watch

At last a bit of good news. It's been announced that a butterfly called the Chequered Skipper, declared extinct in 1977 has been reintroduced in Nottinghamshire and is doing well. It is a small fast flying butterfly in late May through June whose caterpillars feed on various grasses.

Having been asked about trees that can be seen while walking around the village here is Yew, classed as a conifer; each tree is either male or female. We have some good trees in the churchyard and being evergreen they are easily seen at this time of year. There are over 500 churchyards where the Yew trees are older than the buildings. They can live up to 3,000 years old, making them Britain longest lived trees. Yew is good for hedges and very good for early nesting birds. The timber is very strong and durable and is used to make Longbows. When turned on a lathe the sapwood is white and the heartwood reddish brown.

The leaves and seeds are very toxic to us and other mammals but the caterpillars of the Satin Beauty moth can feed on Yew and it makes them toxic to any predators that eat them. Birds of the thrush family eat the bright red berries, the seeds pass straight through the bird's digestive tract and are not digested, which help the Yews to grow new trees well away from the parent.

The toxins from the leaves are used in medicine to treat cancer, this is why we must protect all our living plants, so many have beneficial uses and I am sure we will find plenty more in time to come.

Alan Ford





The Queen's Green Canopy

We have now planted trees across the parish as part of the Queen's Green Canopy scheme to commemorate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. Many thanks to Alan Ford, who gave us the benefit of his considerable wisdom on the best place to plant our Speldhurst tree, in the 'pocket park' connecting Roopers and Penshurst Road.

If you are planning any village-wide jubilee celebrations from 2nd - 5th of June do let us know. Those of our Councillors living in Speldhurst would love to attend and support you.

COMMUNITY SAFETY THEMED ANNUAL PARISH MEETING



We look forward to welcoming Kent Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Scott as Guest Speaker at our annual parish meeting on 28th March. Inspector Ian Jones from Tunbridge Wells Community Safety Unit will also attend, and PCSO Myles Booth who runs our

parish drop-in clinics – duties allowing.

Please do join us at this event; aside from the timely subject matter it's your opportunity to find out what is happening in the parish. We will meet at Langton Green Village Hall, arrive from 7.30pm for an 8pm start.

This is a ticketed event, please contact the council office to book a seat.

How will we spend the precept in 2022?

Each year the Parish Council reviews the amount - called the 'precept' - it will require from householders in the parish. The precept is a small part of the Council Tax you pay to TWBC, which they collect on our behalf. We use this money to provide services that the Borough and County Councils do not provide, maintaining community assets and green spaces, and supporting local groups, churches and charities that help our community thrive.

The Parish Council has a history of keeping tax low. Last year, in view of the hardship the pandemic caused many we froze the precept. At Full Council this January, Councillors agreed an uplift in the precept for the 2022/23 year. The decision to increase charges at a time when households are experiencing higher living costs was not taken lightly, but we are already seeing increases in the cost of services we provide and anticipate this worsening. The band D household rate will increase from £65.59 to £69.11 (5.4%), but this is still very competitive compared to many local parishes who charge over £100.

We continue to look for ways to operate efficiently and sustainably, and regularly review our diverse range of costs and the grants we provide to ensure we provide value to the community. Meeting minutes can be found on our website. Do join our Annual Parish Council Meeting to find out more.

SPEEDWATCH UPDATE: Thanks again to all who volunteer with Speldhurst Community Speedwatch. Our recent data suggests that speeding on Barden Road is *slowly* decreasing; read more about this in our Spring Newsletter, available now at Speldhurst Community Shop and on our website.

New volunteers are still needed to help us capture as much speeding evidence as we can to make the case for traffic-calming. Can you help? If you can, contact our Clerk Katie Neve and she will connect you with a village Coordinator.

PUBLIC MEETINGS: Full Council Meeting 7.30pm Monday 7th March, Palmer Room Langton Green Village Hall. All are welcome to attend. *We will still monitor local covid cases and reserve the right to ask you to book a seat in advance. Please see our website for updates.*

HOW TO CONTACT THE COUNCIL OFFICE: Call the Clerk, Katie Neve on 01892 862927/07760 769513 or email clerk@speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk

For helpful information, visit www.speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk or follow us on Facebook as 'Speldhurst Parish Council'.



Speldhurst CEP School News



As snowdrops and daffodils herald the start of spring, life at Speldhurst School is at last returning to some form of normality. Joyful pupils greeted each other at this term's first assembly, welcoming the end of the bubble system which had needed to be reintroduced at the beginning of the year because of rising cases of COVID.



This photo shows excited pupils waving to their buddies as they gathered with children from outside their class bubbles for the first time in weeks. Speldhurst has a buddy system where older pupils support younger children as part of the School's strong caring and community ethos. Following the uncertainty and mental health effects of the pandemic, an increased emphasis on pupil well-being including interventions such as mindfulness, is also being rolled out across the School.

Year 1 pupils in Jazz Class made the most of the renewed contact, inviting their Year 6 buddies to work on a piece of art with them. With lots of glue and tissue paper, it was something which both groups enjoyed - the older pupils sharing their knowledge and skill with patience and understanding!



Reception children in Pippin class have also been busy this term learning about dinosaurs including fashioning fossils out of salt dough. But the highlight was most definitely 'Dino dress up day', complete with a dinosaur egg and spoon race, whilst Year 2 in Galaxy Gala class went on a scientific hunt to find the microhabitats in the School field. From gigantic to mini-beast, Jurassic to present day, they investigated the different habitats with David Attenborough enthusiasm to discover what the environments on the School doorstep provided for the survival of the tiniest of earth's creatures.

Meanwhile in Crispin Class, Year 5 took a global view, learning about the biomes of the world. As well as understanding animal adaptations and discovering why certain flora and fauna flourish where they do, they were very creative: collaborating on a beautiful piece of art work depicting the boreal forest, whilst each made a 'biome in a box' which they proudly presented to the class.



Elsewhere in the school Year 4 children in Empire (remember the classes are named after apples) created fact files based on a European country of their choice. They chose different countries and presented their findings to the class with PowerPoints, models, posters and from the child who chose Germany - lots of cakes! - Yum.

Pupils have also been letting off energy in a variety of physical activities – from honing their hockey skills to urban dance. Yes! rap music pounded out from the School Hall as the Year 6 pupils of Russet Class threw themselves wholeheartedly into learning street and break-dancing, choreographing their newly acquired 'moves' in small groups for a final dance battle in front of the class.

And so it seems Speldhurst School with all its mix of education and fun, physical and mental activities certainly seems to be returning to normal! Hooray!
SARA ANDREW, Communications Governor.

News from Cllr Matthew Sankey

I'd like to thank the editors for allowing me space in our village magazine to help keep everyone up to date with the goings on at the Town Hall. You will also see below the contact details for your three councillors, which I hope you will find useful.

Thank you to everyone who's been in touch for help, to offer an opinion, or for guidance; that's exactly what I am here for, so please don't hold back - I love engaging with you all.

Garden Waste

The cabinet were asked how much the non-collection of our garden waste was costing TWBC; astonishingly, this is £37,000 per week. Considering the deficit in our budget is circa £2mil, this equates to a lot of it.

We must continue to make a lot of noise about this, as it's totally unacceptable.

Whilst I have your attention on bins, has yours split?

I'd love you to tell me if it has: Pop me an email.

The Cinema Site

I'm delighted to bring you not one, but two brilliant bits of good news about this site.

Firstly, the new developers are seeking planning permission; once approved they will complete on the purchase.

Secondly, along with my Alliance colleagues, we have held discussions with these developers to ensure that the site doesn't remain dormant. We have sought permission for 'Meanwhile Use'.

This is all the rage in London. Whilst developments lay there doing nothing and become an eyesore, 'Meanwhile Use' will allow us to beautify the space, and put it to good community use.

The developers are really keen to hear our thoughts on potential uses, so if you have one, send it in to me, and we can get them proposed.

Speldhurst Speed Watch - Do you have an hour to spare?

I recently signed up to join our local Speed Watch, which took me about 30 mins, and was very simple. Speed Watch sessions last about one hour, and are actually rather enjoyable, despite the cold. Our local group is very effective, but they do need more volunteers. I urge as many of us as possible to join, and help make our village safer.

Visit communityspeedwatch.org to register.

Your Borough Councillors

	Contact Details	Re-Election Date
Cllr Matthew Sankey (Alliance)	07881 674 310 matthew.sankey@tunbridgewells.gov.uk	May 2022
Cllr Lucy Willis (Alliance)	07958 634 185 lucy.willis@tunbridgewells.gov.uk	May 2023
Cllr Harry Allen (Conservative)	07523 005 178 harry.allen@tunbridgewells.gov.uk	May 2025



Penshurst Choral Society

MOZART

REQUIEM

Mass in D Minor

Saturday **9 April** at **6.30 pm**

Joe Tobin conductor

Ian Shaw organist

Tamsin Raitt soprano

Helena Cook alto

James Botcher tenor

Alex Bower Brown bass

St John the Baptist Church

High Street

Penshurst TN11 8BN

Tickets: Adults £12.50 Child (16 and under): £5

Tickets online at

www.penshurstchoralsociety.co.uk/concerts

BLACKHAM VILLAGE CAFÉ AND MARKET

(first Saturday of every month except January)



SATURDAY 5 March 2022

10.00am – 12.30pm

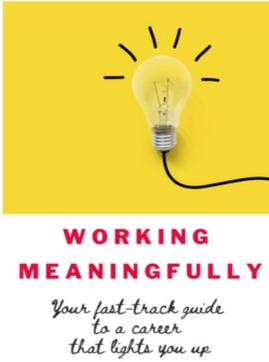
BLACKHAM VILLAGE HALL



Meet your friends at "The Stage" café, enjoy filter coffee, tea and a piece of delicious homemade cake or a warm sausage roll!

Produce for sale at the market include: Bread, free range eggs, pasties and other baked savouries, cakes, scones, preserves, wild bird food plus other exciting goodies.

Blackham Village Hall is a registered charity whose sole purpose is to promote and maintain the hall for the enjoyment of and benefit of the community



Local Author publishes debut eBook

Career coach and founder of *Meaningful Recruitment*, Katie Redfern, has published her debut eBook '*Working Meaningfully – Your fast-track guide to a career that lights you up.*' The book aims to bring Katie's expert career coaching to a new audience, making her guidance more affordable and accessible than ever before.

KATIE REDFERN

Well known for boosting clients' confidence by providing them with the right tools and resources, Katie is sharing her top tips and career advice in an eBook format for just £9.99.

The book is available to buy on Amazon Kindle now.

The book is aimed towards those entering the new year seeking career clarity and a deeper meaning to their work life. The reader is guided along a journey of self-exploration through key information and exercises that Katie shares when she career coaches her clients. Proven tips and advice for how to transform and adapt to a more meaningful work life are shared throughout the book so that each reader can work out what is meaningful to **them** and create the action and momentum needed to propel their career in the right direction.

Katie comments, "I've been an expert in my field of professional recruitment and career consultancy for over 20 years now and founded *Meaningful Recruitment* 5 years ago in 2016. Since then, I've supported thousands of one-to-one clients along a journey of transformation in their careers. During Covid-19 I realised there was a massive need to help more people who were stuck in a rut."

Katie adds, "I share in the book that I'm dyslexic - this taught me from a very young age to persist, be resilient and think laterally. Dyslexia is my superpower now and, against all odds, I'm very proud to have written my first eBook. I hope this inspires others with Dyslexia or any other learning difficulty and reminds them that we can turn our challenges into our strengths."

A Letter from St Mary's

March 2022



Dear Friends,

As I was doing some filing recently I came across a folder marked “When it’s all over...”, in it are various notes and documents about great projects that have been put on hold because of the pandemic. As far as I can tell, the sky has not fallen in because we haven’t done those things, which makes me think that life is a bit more than the great things we do. If there is a blessing to Covid, it is that we have learnt to re-evaluate our priorities.

It’s always been the case that Christians are called to be faithful rather than busy, but we forget that from time to time and even fool ourselves into thinking that being successful is what life is all about. One thing I am confident of is that when we meet God face to face he won’t be impressed with our achievements, but he will be interested in how much joy, laughter, practical care, empathy and love we brought to other people.

Another important life lesson for all of us is to recognise that none of us are essential for the world to keep spinning. This is good news since I will be taking three months out of the parish this year from May to July. I shall be on sabbatical, ten years since my last one. I plan to do three things; walk the Camino from France to Santiago de Compostela, read “The Matter with Things” by Iain McGilchrist and visit several churches that are running more traditional congregations in parallel with new forms of church community and mission. I’ll let you know what I learn on my return.

Douglas

PS I can be contacted at douglas.wren12@gmail.com or on 01892 862821 or at The Rectory, Southfields, Speldhurst, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN3 0PD



March 2022



2nd March

12.30 pm Wedding

8.15 pm Holy Communion for Ash Wednesday

6th March

10 am Communion

6 pm Choral Evensong

13th March

10 am Morning Worship

10 am Online Worship available via
<http://youtube.com/StMarysSpeldhurst>

20th March

10 am Communion

27th March

8 am Traditional Holy Communion (1662)

10 am All-Age Worship for Mothering Sunday

10 am Online Worship available via
<http://youtube.com/StMarysSpeldhurst>

The Church Office can be contacted on 861187 or
speldhurst.church@btopenworld.com

Normal office hours: 9 am to 12.30 pm

See our website: www.speldhurstchurch.org

St Mary's Facebook page:

facebook.com/StMarysSpeldhurst/



Wedding

29th January

5th February

Funeral Service

31st December

19th January

27th January

Tim Bunting and Caroline Atkinson

John Binias and Sarah Moore

Frederick Arthur Charles Cooke

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March 6th
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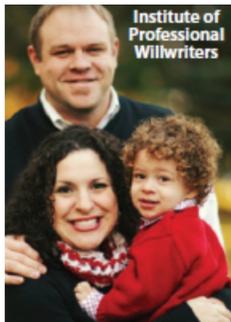
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